

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

~~/~~ Koji SHIGEMATSU

Group Art Unit: 2851

~~/~~ Application No.: 09/722,506

Examiner: H. Nguyen

~~/~~ Filed: November 28, 2000

Docket No.: 105192.01

~~/~~ For: PROJECTION OPTICAL SYSTEM AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND METHOD

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AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the April 24, 2002 Office Action, the shortened statutory period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 16-18, 31, 32, 38-53 and 67-103, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected, withdrawn claims.

Please replace claims 60 and 64 as follows:

60. (Amended) A projection optical system according to claim 57, wherein the plurality of lenses further includes an additional negative group of lenses arranged between the first positive group of lenses and the second positive group of lenses, and a third positive group of lenses arranged in an optical path between the negative group of lenses and the additional negative group of lenses.

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